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Rights violated, student says

DAILY IOWAN Fri. Jan 20-'67

CPYRGHT

To The Editor:

Speaking for those students who desired to be interviewed by Mr. Pecinovsky of the CIA, I wish to write a letter of protest against the SDS and its followers for disrupting the schedule of Mr. Pecinovsky, harassing those working at the Business Placement Office, and violating our rights of privacy in being interviewed. I shall make no attempt to analyze the merits of either the CIA or the SDS.

I was being interviewed by Mr. Pecinovsky at 1 p.m. Tuesday when the protesters forced their way into the small office in the quonset annex of Gilbert Hall and staged a sit-in which initiated this whole fiasco. Because of their demonstration it was impossible for Mr. Pecinovsky to continue the interview there. We then crossed the street and attempted to use the private office of Miss Barnes in the Business Placement Office and again they used physical force in an attempt to gain entrance to her office. When Miss Barnes barred the group from entering, they sang loud songs of protest condemning the CIA, President Johnson, and, in effect, their own country.

It is a sad spectacle to see so called "concerned" students disrupting the activities of a representative of our country's security and also the activities of the Business Placement Office of our University. This is to say nothing of the attempts made by the SDS and its followers to prevent students from being interviewed in privacy and without violent opposition.

The freedom of speech (i.e. the freedom to protest and demonstrate against government policy) does not confer an absolute right to obstruct activities of the Federal Government, the University, or private citizens.

John F. Decker, A4
Coralville, Iowa

[redacted]

FOIAb3b

Peace Pickets at Parsons Sprayed With Deodorant

DES MOINES, REGISTER Fri. Jan. 20, 1967

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

FAIRFIELD, IA.—About 12 Parsons College students protesting the presence of a Marine Corps recruiter on campus here were sprayed with deodorant and given bars of soap Thursday by a group of counter-demonstrators.

The original protesters had their signs taken from them by the counter-demonstrators. The first group was conducting what it called "a sit-in for peace" at the Student Center.

One of the signs displayed by the sit-in group contained a caricature of President Johnson and the caption "Kill for Peace."

The counter-demonstrators displayed signs mocking the students who sat in the Student Center lounge. The signs carried by the counter-demonstrators, mostly veterans and athletes, asked the sit-in group "Why don't you take a bath?" and "Why don't you shave?"

Campus security police were summoned, but college officials said there was no violence. A college official said the sit-in group took the heckling "very calmly" and ignored the crowd of students that gathered to watch them.

Members of the sit-in group disbanded at about 4:30 p.m. and gave no indication whether they would return.

The protest took place during the opening day of a two-day visit of 13 members of the Board of Regents from Oklahoma. College officials said the Oklahomans were inspecting facilities here and were visiting classes and members of the faculty and administration.

College officials said armed services recruiters frequently are on the campus to talk with students.

CPYRGHT

8 Pickets March In CIA Protest

CPYRGHT

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

IOWA CITY, IA.—Pickets showed up again about 10:30 a.m. Thursday outside a quonset hut office where a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiter is interviewing job prospects.

Charles Pecinovsky, the recruiter, started interviews two hours earlier with four University of Iowa campus policemen outside the doors to keep anti-CIA demonstrators out and let job applicants in.

Pecinovsky was later joined by Charles Minich of Chicago, another CIA interviewer, called here due to the many applicants seeking CIA jobs.

Eight pickets began Thursday morning's parade. A ninth was handing out protest letters to passersby. As many as 18 pickets appeared Thursday afternoon.

DES MOINES REGISTER (EDITORIAL) Fri. Jan. 20, 1967

Undemocratic Tactics

CPYRGHT

A society in which bands of youths—be they long-haired, short-haired or bald—had a free hand to intimidate or physically bar fellow citizens from such legitimate pursuits as job interviews would not be a "democratic society."

But a group of students at the University of Iowa, about half of them identified with the Students for a Democratic Society organization, tried to do just that at Iowa City.

The students sprawled in halls and blocked doors in an effort to keep fellow students from keeping appointments with a recruiter for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Whether the demonstrators really expected to check CIA recruiting or merely hoped to gain public attention, their tactics represent a "suppression of democracy"—which is what they accuse the CIA of doing. The students were of a group which, organized or not, is easily identified as at odds with the Administration and society in general. A secretary summed them up as "the long-haired boys" in announcing the group to the recruiter.

We respect the right of the "long-haired boys" to their views, and their right to present them in an appropriate way. They have as much right to sing "Lyndon Johnson Ain't Gonna Run My World" as "God Bless America." (They sang both.)

But it is proper for university police to act, in whatever way is necessary, to enable other students to keep their appointments. After all, these other students may feel that "The Long-Haired Boys Ain't Gonna Run My World" is hardly an unreasonable view.

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